

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date
25 January 2007 (25.01.2007)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2007/011322 A2

(51) International Patent Classification:

C12Q 1/68 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2005/010266

(22) International Filing Date: 29 March 2005 (29.03.2005)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

60/557,612

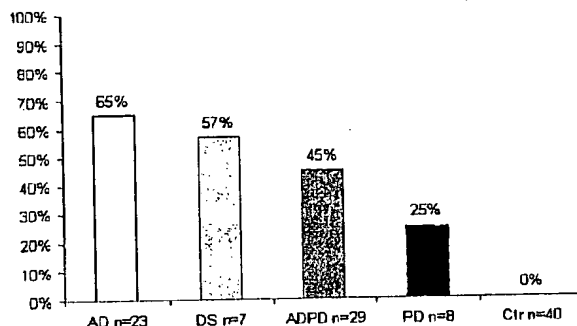
29 March 2004 (29.03.2004) US

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92618 (US).(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,
KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG,
PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY,
TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU,
ZA, ZM, ZW.(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SI, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO,
SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN,
GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— without international search report and to be republished
upon receipt of that reportFor two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.(54) Title: METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR PRE-SYMPTOMATIC OR POST-SYMPTOMATIC DIAGNOSIS OF
ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND OTHER NEURODEGENERATIVE DISORDERS(57) Abstract: Methods, compositions and apparatus (e.g., test kits, test systems, reagents, related computer software, calculators, etc.) for pre-symptomatic or post-symptomatic diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease or other disorders associated with the formation of β -amyloid deposits (e.g., plaques) and/or β -amyloid fibrils. Also, methods, compositions and apparatus assessing the efficacy of treatments for such disorders. Sample cells, tissue or body fluid are obtained from a human or animal subject and analyzed to determine whether or to what extent certain mitochondrial DNA control region (mtDNA CR). Significantly elevated numbers of these mtDNA CR mutations may indicate that the subject suffers from, or is at increased risk for development of, Alzheimer's Disease or other disorders associated with the formation of β -amyloid deposits (e.g., plaques) and/or β -amyloid fibrils. A significant decrease in the numbers of these mtDNA CR mutations during treatment for the disorder may indicate that the treatment is effective.

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